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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) provides that the provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

2. The Conference of the Parties at its fourth session, in decision 4/COP.4, requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session a programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and to include, in the proposed programme budget, detailed tables of the proposed expenditures and resource requirements for each subsidiary body under the budget line for substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

3. The Conference of the Parties at its fourth session further requested the secretariat to inform the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties on the activities to be funded out of the core budget and, where appropriate, out of the supplementary fund, in compliance with the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties.

B. Scope of the note

4. In the light of the above decisions, the Executive Secretary submits herewith, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, a proposed core programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.2 contains information on the estimated requirements for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund for the forthcoming biennium. Document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.5 contains information on the estimated costs of regional coordination units.

5. The summary of the overall core resource requirements for the biennium are provided in table 2 by programme and in table 3 by object of expenditure. Chapter II presents an overview of the proposed budget for the biennium 2002-2003, while chapter III gives the methodology used in preparing the budget. Summary tables and charts and the details of the proposed work programme and budget are presented in chapters IV and V respectively.

6. Chapter VI presents the contingency budget for conference servicing costs of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties. The proposed programme budget of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2003 is made on the assumption that it will be held at the secretariat headquarters in Bonn. In the event that the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, and/or the United Nations General Assembly decides to cease financing the conference services of the sessions of the COP, additional resources for conference services will be required.

C. Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

7. As a result of its deliberations, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session may wish to:

(a) Consider a budget with the following elements:

(i) A total programme budget of US$ 20,292,600 for the biennium 2002-2003, for the purposes listed in table 2 below (not including the contingency items);

(ii) A staffing table with 6 new posts, 4 to be filled in 2002 and 2 in 2003, for the secretariat, and 14 new posts for the Global Mechanism as shown in tables 4 and 5 respectively;

(iii) A provision enabling the Executive Secretary to transfer resources among programmes, within limits, in line with the provisions of decision 6/COP.1, paragraph 6, and decision 3/COP.3, paragraph 5 (both of which are in accordance with paragraph 6 of the financial procedures); and

(iv) A working capital reserve level of 8.3 per cent.

(b) Consider that approved levels of resources are to be included in the programme budget on a contingency basis for the following activities:

Conference servicing and related logistics costs of meetings of the Convention bodies, should the General Assembly not provide for this in the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003 and/or should the meeting take place in Bonn.

(c) Take note of the funding estimate for the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities and the Special Fund for Participation.

(d) Review the current financial rules relating to minimum and maximum scale of assessment, taking into account the new United Nations scale of assessment as adopted by the General Assembly in December 2000.

II. OVERVIEW

8. The proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003 reflects the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. It takes fully into account the comprehensive assessment made by the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of the reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties. It will also meet the specific and time bound challenges set by the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention adopted by the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties.

9. The proposed programme and budget further builds upon the existing structures of the Convention. It offers the best estimate of activities over the next two years based on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. It will be subject to adjustments as a result of decisions and guidance emanating from the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10. In submitting this programme and budget, the secretariat has considered that priority should be given to the proper funding of six posts approved by the COP at its third session in Recife (4 P-4, 1 P-2 and 1 GS), but for which no financial provision was made. Had such provision been made, related costs would have amounted to US$ 570,000 for each of the years of the biennium. The resulting total cost of the UNCCD secretariat programmes would have been US$ 10,731,200 for the biennium 2000-2001. This should be considered as the level required to maintain the currently approved structure. This should be compared to total requirements contained in this proposed programme budget, estimated at US$ 12,588,700 for the biennium 2002-2003, for the secretariat programmes and reflecting a growth of 17.3% over the 2000-2001 biennium.

11. Total resources requirements for the biennium 2002-2003, including programme support costs and working capital reserve but excluding possible conference servicing costs, are estimated at US$ 20,292,600, amounting to US$ 9,848,500 for 2002 and US$ 10,444,100 for 2003. This reflects a growth in the costs of UNCCD secretariat programmes of 17.3%, as explained in paragraph 10 above, and 126% for the office of the Global Mechanism.

12. The main emphases in the programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003 are aimed at strengthening the secretariat's capacity to perform its functions. The proposed activities are as follows:

(a) Improving the services provided to the Conference of the Parties relating to the reporting of the Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(b) Providing information and support upon request to Parties in implementing the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe;

(c) Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(d) Improving information activities through the development of an information strategy including improved Web site, reference library and publications;

(e) Information, policy advice and facilitation of the integration of the action programmes of the affected developing countries in their overall development strategies as well as relevant policy frameworks supported by their bilateral and multilateral partners;

(f) Development and implementation of synergistic programmes with other relevant conventions, in particular with the conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Wetlands;

(g) Development of administrative, financial and personnel policies, procedures and other internal control systems.

13. Pursuant to previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties (e.g. decision 5/COP.3), the integration of the national action programmes in the overall development strategies and programmes of the affected countries was emphasized by the Ad Hoc Working Group when it carried out its in-depth consideration of the reports presented at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties. Likewise it was considered important that bilateral and multilateral partners take action to integrate desertification in their programmes and provide the necessary funding for the implementation of the national, subregional and regional action programmes. The secretariat will emphasize efforts to improve its services, provide information and make policy advocacy for this very important process.

14. The secretariat will continue to develop and implement the joint work programme with the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was adopted in June 2000. Likewise a joint work programme is being developed with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Wetlands. The work programmes will include both policy advice and support to decision makers at country level to enable them better to integrate desertification, biodiversity and climate change issues into their national policy making processes.

15. The secretariat will take action to facilitate the implementation of the decisions of COP 5 on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology.

16. In accordance with decision 5/COP.4, the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties will review the reports of all Parties. In the light of past experience, it is expected that nearly 120 developing country Parties will be preparing their national reports with the support of the secretariat. It is proposed that the secretariat's services be strengthened so as to enable it to provide timely advisory and other forms of assistance to these countries. The secretariat will also prepare analytic summary reports for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. It is, however, anticipated that costs relating to the preparation of the national reports will be covered by voluntary contributions through the supplementary fund.

17. The secretariat will facilitate upon request the implementation of the new Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe, which was adopted by decision 7/COP.4. The affected Parties concerned will be provided with information and advice in developing their national, subregional and regional action programmes.

18. The secretariat will continue to improve its information activities. The Web site will continue to be improved in order to provide timely and reliable information and documents to Parties, other partners and the public in general. Available documents and publications will be organized to serve as a reference library on desertification.

19. Capacity in the administration and finance programme will be strengthened with a view to ensuring improvements in providing the required services to the Parties. Considerable effort will be put into developing finance and human resources policies, setting up computerized integrated management systems, improving accounting controls and providing logistic services for the meetings. With increased capacity, it is anticipated that more services currently being rendered by the United Nations in Geneva will be taken over by this programme, thereby improving lead time for service delivery. Most of the existing posts are funded through the returns from the United Nations programme support. The Executive Secretary will continue to negotiate for the allocation of more funds from programme support income, in order to build the required capacity into this programme.

20. The main emphasis of the programme and budget for 2002-2003, resulting in an increase of financial resources, could be summarized as follows: to strengthen advisory services to support the preparation of national communications; the elaboration of action programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels; the facilitation of consultative processes; the facilitation of the integration of action programmes to combat desertification into the development strategies and relevant policy frameworks of the affected countries as well as in the programmes of their partners; assistance in the development and implementation of synergistic programmes with other conventions; assistance to Parties in improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology; facilitating national reporting and supporting public information activities.

III. METHODOLOGY USED IN PREPARING THE BUDGET

A. Personnel costs

21. The financial data in this document reflect standard salary costs based on United Nations salary scales established for Bonn. They also include 40% common staff costs based on actual UNCCD expenditure for professional staff and 15% for general service staff members. An exchange rate of DM 2.2 per United States dollar is assumed. This rate will be adjusted, as and when required, in the revised estimates to be submitted to the COP at its sixth session. It is estimated that staff costs will increase at a rate of one per cent per year.

B. Other costs and explanations

22. Travel and daily subsistence allowances for staff and consultants are estimated at US$ 200 per day.

23. General operating expenses such as rent, communications, training, furniture, office supplies and equipment are budgeted under the administration and finance programme. The cost of temporary assistance required during peak periods is also budgeted under the administration and finance programme.

24. Provision of insurance coverage for secretariat personnel, as required by Appendix D of United Nations Staff Rules, is included under staff costs under the administration and finance programme.

25. The portion of the overhead charge returned to the secretariat by the United Nations will cover part of the salaries and related costs of the administration and finance staff.

26. A meeting of the Bureau members of the CST will be held in Bonn for a duration of two days. There will be two one-day meetings of the Bureau members of the COP in Bonn. The sixth Conference of the Parties will be held in Bonn in 2003 for a duration of two weeks, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and to meet the additional financial cost.

IV. SUMMARY TABLES AND CHARTS

27. This budget proposal takes into account the staffing table of 43 posts adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third session (decision 3/COP.3, paragraph 3). This proposal, therefore, includes the amount of US$ 570,000 to cover the cost of the agreed new posts (four P-4, one P-2 and one support staff). Accordingly the amount of US$ 10,731,200 should be considered as the maintenance level, that is, the level required to maintain the currently approved structure.

28. As indicated in table 1 below, additional resource requirements for the secretariat in the biennium 2002-2003 would represent an increase of 17.3% in the cost of the approved structure. The resource requirements submitted by the Global Mechanism would represent an increase of 126% in the cost of the approved structure.

Table 1. Summary analysis of resource requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 (Thousands of US dollars)

Activity description	2000-2001 Amount approved (a)	Add'l funds for posts approved with no funding (b)	Total cost of the current structure (c)=(a+b)	Add'l resources required in the biennium 2002-2003 (d)	Total resource requirements for 2002-2003 (e)=(c+d)	% Increase (f)=(d/c)
Staff costs - UNCCD	5,723.5	1,140.0	6,863.5	1,460.2	8,323.7	21.3
Programme	3,867.7	0.0	3,867.7	397.3	4,265.0	10.3
Subtotal UNCCD secretariat	**9,591.2**	**1,140.0**	**10,731.2**	**1,857.5**	**12,588.7**	17.3
Staff costs - GM	2,650.0	0.0	2,650.0	3,340.0	5,990.0	126.0
Total funds (UNCCD + GM)	**12,241.2**	**1,140.0**	**13,381.2**	**5,197.5**	**18,578.7**	**38.8**

Table 2. Estimated resource requirements by programme
General Fund (core budget)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Programmes	2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
UNCCD programmes				
Executive direction and management	1,548.8	760.0	790.0	1,550.0
Substantive support to COP and its subsidiary bodies (1)	1,180.8	1,000.0	1,101.0	2,101.0
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	3,882.1	2,425.6	2,615.0	5,040.6
External relations and public information	946.2	730.9	781.3	1,512.2
Administration and finance	2,033.3	1,191.9	1,193.0	2,384.9
Subtotal UNCCD secretariat programmes	**9,591.2**	**6,108.4**	**6,480.3**	**12,588.7**
Global Mechanism	2,650.0	2,871.0	3,119.0	5,990.0
Total programmes	**12,241.2**	**8,979.4**	**9,599.3**	**18,578.7**
Overhead	1,591.4	1,167.3	1,247.9	2,415.2
Working capital reserve (2)	163.1	156.3	51.4	207.7
Total estimated resource requirements	**13,995.7**	**10,303.0**	**10,898.6**	**21,201.6**
Less				
Contribution from host Government	1,136.4	454.5	454.5	909.0
Net required amount	**12,859.3**	**9,848.5**	**10,444.1**	**20,292.6**

(1) In order to enhance consistency, related services have been grouped together. This has resulted in integrating the programme previously known as policy-making organs into the programme on substantive support to COP and its subsidiary bodies.

(2) For the year 2002 the working capital reserve is calculated at US$ 745,300 of which US$ 589,000 is anticipated to be carried over from the previous biennium. The working capital reserve for the year 2003 is calculated at US$ 796,700 of which the year 2002 provides for US$ 745,300.

Table 3. Estimated resource requirements by object of expenditure
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff costs	5,723.5	4,028.4	4,295.3	8,323.7
Consultants and experts	1,061.6	390.0	390.0	780.0
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings	37.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Official travel of staff	1,267.4	740.0	820.0	1,560.0
Contractual services	633.4	300.0	310.0	610.0
General operating expenses	369.7	250.0	250.0	500.0
Hospitality	48.0	10.0	25.0	35.0
Supplies and materials	100.0	130.0	130.0	260.0
Acquisition of equipment	50.0	90.0	90.0	180.0
Contributions to joint services	300.0	170.0	170.0	340.0
Subtotal UNCCD secretariat programmes	**9,591.2**	**6,108.4**	**6,480.3**	**12,588.7**
Allocation to Global Mechanism	2,650.0	2,871.0	3,119.0	5,990.0
Total programmes	**12,241.2**	**8,979.4**	**9,599.3**	**18,578.7**
Overhead	1,591.4	1,167.3	1,247.9	2,415.2
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Contribution from host Government	1,136.4	454.5	454.5	909.0
Net required amount	**12,859.3**	**9,848.5**	**10,444.1**	**20,292.6**

Table 4. Staffing requirements for the UNCCD secretariat

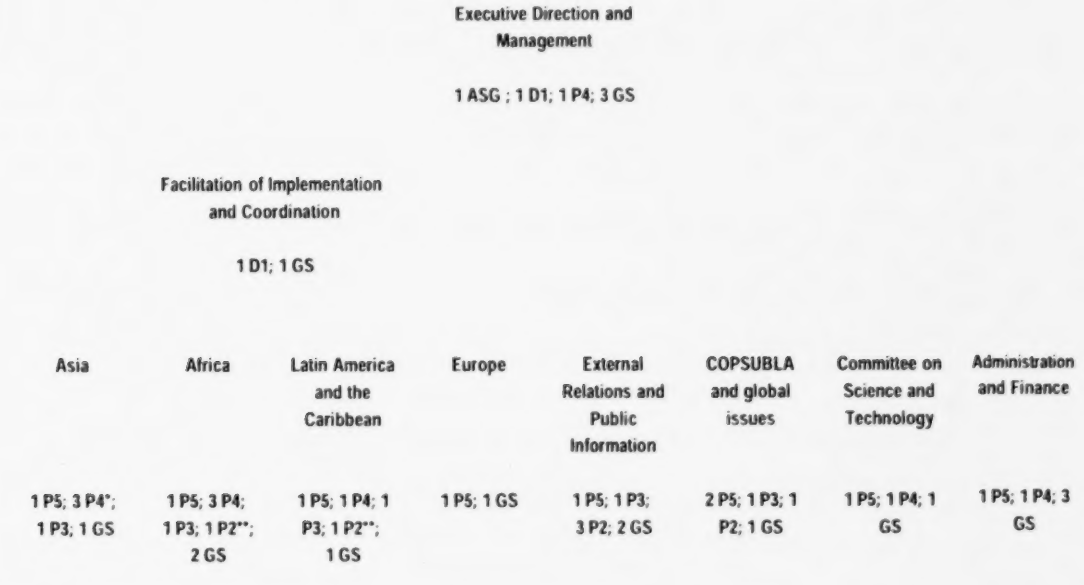
A. Professional category and above	2001	2002	2003
ASG	1	1	1
D-1	2	2	2
P-5	6	9	10
P-4	10	10	9
P-3	7	5	5
P-2	4	4	6
Subtotal A	**30**	**31**	**33**
B. General Service category	13	16	16
Total (A + B)	**43**	**47**	**49**

Table 5. Staffing requirements for the Global Mechanism

	2000/01	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
D-2	1	1	1
D-1	1	1	1
P-3/5*	3	6	6
P-4	0	1	1
P-2/3*	0	5	5
Subtotal A	**5**	**14**	**14**
B. General Service category	5	10	10
Total (A + B)	**10**	**24**	**24**

* P3/5 and P2/3 imply that successful candidates for the posts will be placed within the bands of P3/5 and P2/3 on the basis of previous experience and qualifications.

Chart 1. Proposed UNCCD core staffing for 2002-2003


Executive Direction and Management
1 ASG ; 1 D1; 1 P4; 3 GS
Facilitation of Implementation and Coordination
1 D1; 1 GS
Asia
1 P5; 3 P4*; 1 P3; 1 GS
Africa
1 P5; 3 P4; 1 P3; 1 P2**; 2 GS
Latin America and the Caribbean
1 P5; 1 P4; 1 P3; 1 P2**; 1 GS
Europe
1 P5; 1 GS
External Relations and Public Information
1 P5; 1 P3; 3 P2; 2 GS
COPSUBLA and global issues
2 P5; 1 P3; 1 P2; 1 GS
Committee on Science and Technology
1 P5; 1 P4; 1 GS
Administration and Finance
1 P5; 1 P4; 3 GS

* One post is proposed for upgrade in the year 2003.

** P2 posts to be filled in 2003.

Chart 2. Proposed Global Mechanism core staffing for 2002-2003

Leadership and Overall Management
1 D2 ; 1 D1; 1 P5*; 1 P3**; 4 GS
Africa
2 P5; 1 P3; 2 GS
Asia and North Africa
2 P5; 1 P3; 2 GS
Latin America and the Caribbean
1 P5; 1 P3; 1 GS
Information Systems and Financial Analysis
1 P4; 1 P3; 1 GS

* The proposed six posts at P5 level can be filled also at the level of P4 or P3 depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate.

** The proposed five posts at P3 level can be filled also at the level of P2 depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate.

V. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2002-2003

A. Executive direction and management

Table 6. Resource requirements for executive direction and management
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff-related costs (1 ASG, 1 D1, 1 P4, 3 GS)	1,090.8	500.0	520.0	1,020.0
Official travel of staff	450.0	250.0	260.0	510.0
Hospitality	8.0	10.0	10.0	20.0
Total resources requirements	**1,548.8**	**760.0**	**790.0**	**1,550.0**

Table 7. Post requirements for executive direction and management

	2001	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
ASG	1	1	1
D-1	1	1	1
P-4	0	1	1
P-3	1	0	0
Subtotal	**3**	**3**	**3**
B. General Service category	3	3	3
Total (A + B)	**6**	**6**	**6**

29. The Executive Direction and Management Programme supports the Executive Secretary in ensuring the effective and smooth operation of the secretariat. To this end the programme organizes the internal management process and ensures an adequate flow of information throughout the secretariat. It also provides substantive support and advice to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. The programme further represents the secretariat vis-à-vis the other players in the activities of the Convention and assists in building up partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention.

30. In the coming biennium the programme will make particular efforts in the affected developing countries, as well as with multilateral and bilateral partners, for to encourage the application of its policy for integrating national action programmes on desertification into overall development strategies.

31. In order effectively to discharge the demanding responsibilities entrusted to this programme, it is proposed to reclassify the post of the Special Assistant as indicated in table 7 above. The duties of this programme include the need to develop and strengthen, within the framework of the Convention, the cooperation with all relevant actors, including those from the country Parties, relevant international bodies and civil society, in order to enhance their support to the process of the implementation of the Convention. The support services of the programme will continue to be provided by the three General Service posts: the secretaries to the Executive Secretary and the Deputy and a registration clerk.

32. Apart from staff-related costs, resource requirements for the programme include official travel of staff. The increase in travel costs reflects the efforts to develop and/or strengthen the cooperation and outreach with all Parties, related multilateral agreements and United Nations specialized agencies as well as international organizations and NGOs, for a better integration of the UNCCD in their development activities.

B. Substantive support to the COP and global issues

Table 8. Resource requirements for the substantive support to the COP and global issues (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff-related costs (2 P5, 1 P3, 1 P2, 1 GS)	366.1	450.0	450.0	900.0
Consultants and experts	70.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Official travel of staff	40.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Travel of technical staff to COP 6	85.0	0.0	60.0	60.0
Hospitality	30.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
Total resource requirements	**591.1**	**550.0**	**625.0**	**1,175.0**

Table 9. Staffing requirements for substantive support to the COP and global issues

Object of expenditure	2001	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
P-5	1	2	2
P-4	1	0	0
P-3	1	1	1
P-2	1	1	1
Subtotal A	**4**	**4**	**4**
B. General Service category	1	1	1
Total (A + B)	**5**	**5**	**5**

33. The secretariat will strengthen its support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and will continue to provide organizational and substantive services:

(a) to the Conference of the Parties as stated in Article 22 of the Convention and to its policy-making organs;

(b) for the identification and the development of joint work programmes with other relevant conventions and bodies.

34. The Conference of the Parties will continue to consider both standing and selected items, in particular concerning progress made in the implementation of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties (decision 5/COP.4) decided to include on the agenda of its sixth session: (a) a review of reports on implementation from affected country Parties of all regions; (b) a review of reports on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in all regions, and (c) a review of reports from developed country Parties, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations on the support they provided in the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention.

35. The secretariat will continue to make logistic arrangements for, and provide services and documentation to, the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and will compile, synthesize and transmit reports submitted to it by Parties and observers to the Convention. In accordance with decision 2/COP.3, the secretariat will undertake an overall review of the secretariat activities and will submit a report thereon to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixth session.

36. It is assumed that the COP will meet for two weeks in 2003. Conference services will be provided, allowing for two simultaneous meetings during those two weeks, which will make twenty meetings per week, or forty meetings over the two-week period.

37. The proposed budget for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties is made with the assumption that this session will be held at UNCCD headquarters. In the event that the United Nations General Assembly decides to cease financing the conference services of the sessions of the COP, additional resources for conference services would be required. These are provided for under "Contingency" in chapter VI of this document.

38. The Bureau will guide the secretariat in implementing decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session as well as in the preparation of the sixth session. Two meetings of the COP Bureau are envisaged before COP 6. The logistics costs associated with the organization of these Bureau meetings are included in the resource requirements of administration and finance programme.

39. The proposed budget for this programme includes the staff travel to attend relevant international meetings. The proposal provides for the secretariat to engage the services of specialized expertise through consultants to undertake short-term assignments to meet the requirements expressed in COP decisions. The proposal also provides for the travel of technical secretariat staff to service COP 6 and the cost of hospitality during COP 6. These items were included in the programme and budget 2000-2001 under the title "Policy-making organs".

40. The secretariat will continue to provide the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies with such legal advice as may be required. Requirements for legal advice will arise from arrangements deriving from the institutional linkage with the United Nations, drafting agreements with governments hosting UNCCD-related meetings, issues regarding procedures for the resolution of questions related to implementation (UNCCD article 27) and from conciliation and arbitration procedures for the settlement of disputes (UNCCD article 28).

41. It is proposed that this programme be strengthened by reclassifying an existing post so as to provide the required services for the identification and development of joint work programmes opportunities, in particular with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), and other relevant international bodies. This programme will also provide support for the required development of UNCCD relations with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Substantive support to the CST and related activities

Table 10. Resource requirements for the substantive support to the CST and related activities (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff-related costs (1 P5, 1 P4, 1 GS)	386.1	250.0	256.0	506.0
Consultants and experts	72.0	40.0	40.0	80.0
Official travel of staff	40.0	40.0	50.0	90.0
Ad Hoc Panel Meeting	31.6	80.0	90.0	170.0
CST Bureau Meeting	60.0	40.0	40.0	80.0
Total resource requirements	**589.7**	**450.0**	**476.0**	**926.0**

Table 11. Staffing requirements for science and technology

Object of expenditure	2001	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
P-5	1	1	1
P-4	1	1	1
Subtotal A	**2**	**2**	**2**
B. General Service category	0	1	1
Total (A + B)	**2**	**3**	**3**

42. In accordance with decision 4/COP.4, paragraph 10, the resource requirements for the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and related activities are presented separately. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology, as contained in decision 15/COP.1, and the CST work programme contained in decision 16/COP.4, the secretariat will perform the following functions:

(a) Prepare and organize the meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology, and provide the necessary services to the Committee and to such ad hoc panels or other bodies as may be established;

(b) Facilitate preparation of such studies and prepare such reports as may be requested by the Committee;

(c) Facilitate any inter-sessional work in support of the Committee;

(d) Maintain and update the roster of independent experts; and

(e) Assist the Committee in its cooperation with the scientific community, and maintain contacts with relevant national and international institutions in coordination with the subregional programmes.

43. The proposed work programme for the substantive support to the CST and related activities during the biennium 2002-2003 will include support to the following topics:

(a) Improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST;

(b) Survey and evaluation of existing networks willing to support the implementation of the Convention;

(c) Facilitation of the work of ad hoc panels or other bodies as may be decided at COP 5;

(d) Facilitation of the development of an international network of experts and institutions on traditional knowledge, as decided by COP 4;

(e) Facilitation of the development of early warning systems of desertification, as decided by COP 3 and COP 4;

(f) Development of benchmarks and indicators, to follow up on previous work undertaken by the CST on implementation and impact indicators;

(g) Cooperation with assessment initiatives undertaken by other multilateral organizations, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Dryland Degradation Assessment;

(h) Review of scientific and technological aspects of national reports;

(i) Maintenance of the roster of experts;

(j) Strategies for the communication of information and its use to generate best practices for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

44. The secretariat will take action to implement the decisions of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology. This follow-up will include planning of activities, cooperation with the scientific community and consultations with Parties.

45. In accordance with the requirements of article 25 of the Convention and with its decisions 23/COP.1 and 13/COP.4, the Conference of the Parties will have before it the interim report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the second phase of the survey and evaluation of relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support the implementation of the Convention, with regard to the southern Africa subregion. The survey will be undertaken by UNEP on behalf of a consortium of 8 members. The proposed work programme will be funded through the Supplementary Fund.

46. By decision 16/COP.4, the Conference of the Parties decided that at each session the Committee on Science and Technology will address in depth a priority issue relating to the implementation of the Convention. Work on this subject may be entrusted to an ad hoc panel. The proposed programme budget includes facilitation and support of the work of one ad hoc panel.

47. One significant part of the work programme of the CST will concern traditional knowledge. The Conference of the Parties appointed at its second session (decision 14/COP.2) an ad hoc panel which drew upon the synthesis of the most important and widely applied traditional knowledge compiled by the secretariat (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2). The ad hoc panel was reappointed (decision 12/COP.3), and its report presented to COP 4 (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2). At the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, based on decision 12/COP.4, the Committee will review the proposal on the realization of a pilot project of a network of institutions and experts on traditional knowledge.

48. By its decision 14/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties appointed an ad hoc panel to consider the issue of early-warning systems on desertification. Its report was presented at COP 4 (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4). The ad hoc panel was reappointed (decision 14/COP.4) to examine further specific issues related to the prediction of drought and desertification; its report will be presented at COP 5. The secretariat will follow up on this initiative, including cooperation with the scientific community.

49. Another significant part of the ongoing work programme of the CST concerns benchmarks and indicators. By its decisions 22/COP.1, 16/COP.2 and 11/COP.3, the Committee has reviewed the development of implementation and impact indicators, and has requested Parties to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in A/AC.241/INF.4 and revised in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1. A synthesis and assessment of the scientific and technical information contained in the reports received from Parties, particularly with regard to benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, was considered at COP 4 (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5). Based on decision 11/COP.4, various intergovernmental organizations will report on the progress of their initiatives at COP 5. The secretariat will follow up on this priority issue, particularly the development and testing of a minimum set of impact indicators, as well as indicators to measure the participation of local communities and other non-governmental organizations.

50. In accordance with decision 18/COP.4, the secretariat will also facilitate the involvement of the Parties in activities related to the Dryland Degradation Assessment and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

51. Recalling its decisions 11/COP.1 and 6/COP.3 on review of the implementation of the Convention, and taking note of the synthesis of scientific and technical information contained in ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to include in their national reports information on scientific and technical activities to combat desertification, in order better to integrate the activities of the scientific community into the implementation of the Convention, and to report on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology (decision 10/COP.4). The secretariat will continue to provide assistance to Parties on how to integrate the activities of the scientific and technical communities into their national reports, as well as how to provide a synthesis of scientific and technical activities in future national reports.

52. The secretariat will continue to maintain and update the roster of independent experts, in accordance with article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention, and decision 15/COP.4.

53. By its decision 16/COP.4, the Conference of the Parties selected "Strategies for the communication of information and its use to generate best practices for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought" as the priority issue to be considered by the Committee on Science and Technology at its fifth session. Further work on this issue may be entrusted to an ad hoc panel of experts.

54. The CST programme will continue to make its contribution to development and implementation of the joint work programmes, in particular with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR).

55. Secretarial services have been provided to the CST subprogramme by the subprogramme for substantive support to the COP. Due to the increased workload of CST related activities, it is proposed to allocate a post of one support staff to this subprogramme. In addition to staff-related costs, annual resource requirements cover staff travel, *inter alia*, to service and attend meetings of the ad hoc panel(s)

and other scientific bodies and consultancies, as well as the costs of CST Bureau meetings.

D. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

Table 12. Resource requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff-related costs (1 D1, 4 P5, 7 P4, 3 P3, 2 P2, 6 GS)	2,764.1	1,975.6	2,165.0	4,140.6
Consultants	695.6	200.0	220.0	400.0
Official travel of staff	402.4	250.0	250.0	500.0
Contractual services	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total resource requirements	**3,882.1**	**2,425.6**	**2,615.0**	**5,040.6**

Table 13. Staffing requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination

	2001	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
D-1	1	1	1
P-5	3	4	5
P-4	7	7	6
P-3	3	3	3
P-2	0	0	2
Subtotal A	**14**	**15**	**17**
B. General Service category	4	6	6
Total (A + B)	**18**	**21**	**23**

56. The proposed work programme will contribute to meeting the challenges spelled out in the Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention. It will also respond to requirements expressed by the Parties during the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties and activities required for the effective discharge of the secretariat's functions. The work programme for the Facilitation Unit is coordinated by the Principal Coordinator and is broken down into four regional subprogrammes which are:

- the facilitation of implementation for Africa;
- the facilitation of implementation for Asia;
- the facilitation of implementation for Latin America and the Carribean; and
- the facilitation of implementation for Europe.

57. Each regional subprogramme will undertake the following activities:

(a) To service the needs of the COP and/or of its subsidiary bodies in providing consistent information and analysis for its review of progress in the implementation of the Convention, in line with the obligations of affected country Parties as well as of developed country Parties, including support to the preparation of national reports;

(b) To facilitate the implementation of the Convention, promote policy advocacy at all levels and provide systematic information and advice to governments through the UNCCD national focal point on specific aspects of the Convention's implementation process and related COP decisions, including the integration of the national action programmes into development strategies and the involvement of institutions and actors of civil society;

(c) To assist affected developing country Parties, upon request, in promoting partnership arrangements at national level in cooperation with the Global Mechanism, UNDP, the World Bank, the European Community and other relevant international organizations, and in facilitating national, subregional, regional and interregional cooperation frameworks;

(d) To promote the exchange of experiences in implementing the Convention among the affected developing countries as well as between them and affected developed countries;

(e) To facilitate international cooperation in support of the implementation process through the development of synergistic programmes and inter-linkages with other conventions and their respective agencies, particularly at the national levels.

58. The proposed programme and budget will be the first to take place with the benefit of the comprehensive assessment made in the context of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties. The support to Parties will include further assistance in the preparation of national reports and consultations. In accordance with decision 5/COP.4, the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties will review reports from all regions. It is anticipated that costs relating to the preparatory meetings of the regions to consider reporting and for consultancy for drawing up the summary reports to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties and support at the national level will be provided under the Supplementary Fund.

59. The secretariat will continue to provide the focal points with information and advice on the implementation of the Convention. The adoption of a new Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe will call on the secretariat to facilitate, upon request, measures taken by the respective Parties to develop their national and regional action programmes. An important emphasis in the facilitation activities will be on advising and supporting efforts to integrate the national action programmes of the affected countries into the overall development strategies of, and cooperation between, the multilateral and bilateral partners.

60. Another important emphasis will be on fostering partnership arrangements at national level at the request of the affected Parties. The process of implementing national, subregional and regional action programmes will need fuller support to be materialized. These activities and the respective resource mobilization will be developed in cooperation with the Global Mechanism, UNDP, and other agencies and institutions. In this context, decisive progress must be achieved during this biennium. The facilitation of Parties' initiatives in all regions, and particularly in Africa, requires considerable strengthening of the ongoing cooperation among the international organizations and agencies supporting the Convention, including strengthening the services of the secretariat.

61. In order to provide timely technical assistance to the affected country Parties, three new professional posts and two new posts for support staff are proposed for establishment in the biennium 2002-2003 as shown in table 12. The current subprogramme for the Northern Mediterranean will be restructured in order to incorporate Central and Eastern Europe. The subprogramme will thus be renamed Europe. The current post of coordinator for the North Mediterranean subprogramme will be reclassified in order to meet the workload of the new subprogramme. One of the support staff posts will be for the Europe subprogramme. The overall coordination and policy guidance of the general facilitation unit will continue to be provided by the principal coordinator with the support of one General Service staff. Of the new posts requested, two Professionals and one General Services staff will be for the Africa subprogramme, and one Professional post for the Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme. Most of the 52 African country Parties as well as 51 Asian and 33 Latin America and the Caribbean country Parties have made substantial progress at national level. Thus, 19 country Parties have finalized and started implementing national action programmes in Africa, 7 in Asia and 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workload of the programmes has already substantially increased. The secretariat will continue to consider requests submitted and to provide assistance to the countries as required, specifically in advising on the organization of consultative processes leading to the conclusion of partnership agreements. The programmes are planning to support national processes and therefore to assist the UNCCD national focal point upon request, which include frequent missions in the regions. At the subregional level, the secretariat will further assist in the implementation of the existing SRAPs and facilitate the elaboration of the new SRAPs. Finally, the secretariat will support the regional thematic programme networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

62. In its decision 4/COP.4, paragraph 17, the Conference of the Parties noted that there has been insufficient time to consider the document on regional coordination units. The Executive Secretary was then requested to submit a new report on regional coordination units, providing a more detailed and thorough evaluation of the need for, feasibility of, modalities for and costs involved for the regional coordination units as well as an evaluation to address the approach to regional level activities within the United Nations system, taking into account the need to avoid duplication of the mandates of existing organizations, with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision at its fifth session. Document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.5 contains the Executive Secretary's note on this issue.

63. In addition to the staff costs outlined in table 13 above, annual core budget resource requirements for 2002-2003 to carry out the programme activities described under this heading are provided in table 12 above. Travel estimates provide for travel of staff to the headquarters and regional offices of concerned intergovernmental organizations for meetings, consultations and coordination, notably so that policy advocacy and advice be extended to the facilitation of integrating national action programmes into development strategies and promoting partnership arrangements as well as on strengthening synergies between the conventions. Requirements for consultancies relate also to the substantive support to affected Parties requesting assistance in the integration of their action programmes into national development strategies and in the organization of consultative forums for national reports and consultancies for preparing the summary reports of the national reports. Additional support to facilitate those activities is included under the Supplementary Fund.

E. External relations and public information

Table 14. Resource requirements for external relations and public information (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Total 2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff-related costs (1 P-5, 1 P3, 3 P2, 2 GS)	679.2	500.9	551.3	1,052.2
Consultants	117.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Official travel of staff	150.0	100.0	100.0	200.0
Publications	0.0	80.0	80.0	160.0
Total resource requirements	**946.2**	**730.9**	**781.3**	**1,512.2**

Table 15. Post requirements for external relations and public information

	2001	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
P-5	0	1	1
P-4	1	0	0
P-3	1	1	1
P-2	3	3	3
Subtotal A	**5**	**5**	**5**
B. General Service category	2	2	2
Total (A + B)	**7**	**7**	**7**

64. In the forthcoming biennium the activities envisaged for the External Relations and Public information Unit will keep focusing on three main issues: inter-agency coordination, cooperation with non-governmental organizations and public awareness. The secretariat will continue to work towards the enhancement of its Web site information service and the development of a centralized library service. In order to respond effectively to increased user demands and responsibilities in relation to information and library services, external relations and NGO coordination, the post of coordinator of this programme, which will also become spokesperson of the secretariat, is proposed for reclassification in the biennium 2002-2003 as shown in table 15 above.

Inter-agency coordination

65. In the framework of the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10), the secretariat will endeavour to strengthen relationships with other relevant secretariats, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

66. The secretariat will cooperate with multilateral and bilateral partners, including international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, in order to obtain their support to the implementation of the Convention.

67. Regular consultations will need to be maintained with a view to securing the required level of coordination and follow-up on joint programmes of work with key partner agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the CBD, the UNFCCC and the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), in order to:

(a) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Coordinate the respective work programmes;

(c) Integrate desertification into the work programmes of the partner organizations.

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations

68. The participation of non-governmental organizations is indispensable for the successful implementation of the Convention. The programme aims to continue assuring the effective participation of the NGO community at all levels and in all areas of the implementation of the Convention.

Public awareness

69. As regards public awareness and in support of the implementation of the objectives set out in UNCCD article 19, paragraph 3, the secretariat will continue to facilitate communication with and among Parties in combating desertification. It will further develop its information strategy, strengthen its outreach capability and provide support in the dissemination of information to affected country Parties upon request. The secretariat also deems it necessary to initiate new awareness-raising activities.

70. The secretariat is envisaging the launching in the forthcoming biennium of a new information and awareness policy which will combine the former effective tools with new ones. The new approach will focus more on the local level and on the complexity of the process of desertification. Interrelations among desertification, biodiversity and climate change, as well as food security and poverty, will be further highlighted. New interest groups in both affected and unaffected countries, such as schools, consumers, industry, farmers and local authorities, will be addressed and provided with specific information tools.

71. This new strategy will require innovative supporting materials and the reprinting of existing documents in all the official United Nations languages. In addition, other promotional brochures will be elaborated to raise awareness on desertification and desertification-related issues. Furthermore, additional copies of the Convention should be produced in order to include in the text the new fifth regional implementation annex for Central and Eastern Europe. It should be noted that continuous update and flow of information on the activities of the secretariat by ensuring timely production of media materials and publications is one of the main tools for creating public awareness on issues related to the Convention.

Information and library services

72. The secretariat will play the role of facilitator and clearing house in providing information to partners. The UNCCD library will work closely with other partner organizations in providing reference material to all users. The secretariat will also endeavour to continue its current effort towards the enhancement of its Web site, conceived as an essential element of its information and outreach service. The proposed programme budget would provide for the funding and filling of one GS post of Librarian and a P-2 post for a LAN assistant which had already been approved but not funded.

73. Apart from staff-related costs, other estimated annual core costs comprise consultancies that may be required, including for the compilation of information strategy and related material, and the preparation of reports and press articles. The costs also include staff travel for consultations with, and to attend meetings of, related United Nations bodies and conventions, as well as other organizations, in particular for strengthening synergies and integrating desertification into their programmes.

F. Administration and finance

Table 16. Resource requirements for administration and finance
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Total 2000-2001	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff costs (1 P5, 1 P4, 3 GS)*	439.2	351.9	353.0	704.9
Consultancies	100.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Official travel of staff	110.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Contractual services	564.4	180.0	180.0	360.0
General operating expenses	369.7	250.0	250.0	500.0
Supplies and materials	100.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Equipment and furniture	50.0	90.0	90.0	180.0
Contributions to joint services	300.0	170.0	170.0	340.0
Total resource requirements	**2,033.3**	**1,191.9**	**1,193.0**	**2,384.9**

* Includes cost of insurance cover for secretariat personnel in the event of death, injury or illness attributable to the performance of official duties on behalf of the secretariat, as required by appendix D of the United Nations Staff Rules. Resources requirements being proposed are to cover only half of staff costs and it is anticipated that returns from 13% programme support income will be adequate to cover the balance of total resource requirements.

Table 17. Post requirements for administration and finance

	2001	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
P-5	1	1	1
P-4	0	1	1
P-3	1	0	0
Subtotal A	**2**	**2**	**2**
B. General Service category	3	3	3
Total (A + B)	**5**	**5**	**5**

74. This programme assists the Executive Secretary in the planning, coordination and management of both human and financial resources in support of the work programme of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. The objective of this programme is to provide adequate, reliable and timely back-up services with a view to facilitating the work of the secretariat, as follows:

(a) Prepare, administer and monitor the budget and provide periodic reports thereon to the COP, as well as prepare regular reports for internal management control and decision-making;

(b) Administer, monitor and report on extra-budgetary funds and programmes;

(c) Initiate and undertake recruitment of staff, including temporary staff and consultants;

(d) Estimate meeting service requirements and ensure provision of logistics and security-related services;

(e) Manage the travel programme for staff, consultants and representatives of Parties and non-governmental organizations with a view to ensuring maximum participation of Parties and other invited participants in the meetings of the secretariat;

(f) Ensure support to the secretariat and provide central control in respect of requirements for furniture, equipment, communications and other operating requirements.

75. The 1999 audit report as presented to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties indicated good management of the financial and administrative affairs of the secretariat. The secretariat aims to maintain these high standards and to continue improving the efficiency and timeliness of the services rendered by this programme, mainly by taking over more functions currently being done partly by the United Nations office in Geneva and partly by the secretariat. The secretariat will, however, continue to be supported by the United Nations secretariat in New York and Geneva in personnel and treasury-related functions.

76. Over the last three years the responsibilities of the programme have increased substantially, due mainly to increased demand for its services and to its location away from the United Nations office in Geneva. There is, therefore, a need to strengthen the human resources capacity in the administrative and financial programme of the secretariat in order to cope with the increased level of responsibilities. The aim of the secretariat is to ensure that all the required internal controls, policies and guidelines are developed so as to ensure consistency and accountability in managing both the financial and the human resources of the secretariat. As shown in table 16, the programme has only two professional posts, one of which is that of the head of the unit. It is foreseen that in the biennium 2002-2003, the head of the unit will devote more time to developing policies and guidelines and setting up the relevant controls to enable the secretariat to operate with some level of independence. The other professional post in the programme is proposed for upgrade in order to deputize for the head of the unit by ensuring smooth and effective supervision of personnel, finance, travel, accounting and general services as

provided by the programme. It should be noted that the Executive Secretary intends to continue to negotiate for an increased proportion of resources, from the 13 per cent programme support income from the United Nations, in order to provide additional personnel for financial and administrative services including those related to the logistics and organization of conferences and meetings.

77. The secretariat will continue discussions with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the feasibility of the establishment of a joint administrative service unit in Bonn. The aim of this initiative is to produce better services and increase efficiency. Under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary will pursue consultations with UNFCCC and UNOG on modalities for administration and for effecting an equitable distribution of the proceeds from the 13 per cent programme support charge paid to the United Nations secretariat on all expenditures of Convention Trust Funds.

78. The secretariat intends to make use of an integrated management information system for all administrative and financial activities. Various options for this system, including the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the United Nations, are to be considered. In addition, the secretariat is in the process of developing its own financial and human resources manuals. The Personnel Appraisal System (PAS) already developed in the just-ending biennium will continue to be improved during the biennium.

79. In addition to staffing resource requirements for the biennium, including those for the secretariat as a whole, but which have been centrally provided under this unit, other resource requirements are detailed in table 16 and include:

(a) Other staff-related costs: general temporary assistance for UNCCD peak workload periods and replacement of staff on sick or maternity leave; provision of minimal training and staff development; provision for reimbursement of income taxes to staff members who may be subject to national taxation in respect of their UNCCD emoluments; and staff insurance coverage as required by the United Nations Staff Rules, Appendix D;

(b) Travel of staff to United Nations Headquarters and offices for meetings, consultations and advice relating to administrative and financial matters, and consultancies that may be required to improve or update the administrative and financial procedures and systems already in place; and

(c) Other requirements: general operating expenses for rental and maintenance, furniture, equipment and vehicles, communications costs, rental and maintenance of liaison facilities, Internet subscription and software licences, contributions towards the UNCCD share of joint services in Haus Carstanjen, and auditing services from the United Nations.

G. Global Mechanism

Table 18. Global Mechanism post requirements

	2000/01	2002	2003
A. Professional category and above			
D-2	1	1	1
D-1	1	1	1
P-3/5*	3	6	6
P-4	0	1	1
P-2/3*	0	5	5
Subtotal A	**5**	**14**	**14**
B. General Service category	5	10	10
Total (A + B)	**10**	**24**	**24**

* P3/5 and P2/3 imply that successful candidates for the posts will be placed within the bands of P3/5 and P2/3 on the basis of previous experience and qualifications.

Table 19. Estimated resource requirements by object of expenditure
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000/01	2002	2003	Total 2002-2003
Staff costs	1,921.0	2,201.0	2,264.0	4,465.0
Consultants and experts	90.0	75.0	100.0	175.0
Official travel of staff	350.0	300.0	350.0	650.0
Office equipment	100.0	150.0	150.0	300.0
Hospitality	9.0	5.0	5.0	10.0
General operating expenses	120.0	90.0	125.0	215.0
Grants and contributions	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contingency	10.0	50.0	125.0	175.0
Net required amount	**2,650.0**	**2,871.0**	**3,119.0**	**5,990.0**

80. The mandate of the Global Mechanism is to "Promote actions leading to the mobilization of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional terms to affected developing country Parties". The Global Mechanism does this through mainstreaming the UNCCD into relevant government planning and budgeting processes, integrating the NAP/UNCCD objectives into the development cooperation frameworks adopted by the various donors, and exploring a variety of financing opportunities and instruments from which the NAP implementation can benefit. On this basis, and in response to the multi-sectoral dimension of the UNCCD, the Global Mechanism acts as a partnership builder and catalyst that not only draws on, but adds value to, the interventions of other development partners. The GM invests its own resources in the mainstreaming and partnership building processes leading to a substantial multiplier effect of the resources invested by the Global Mechanism.

81. It follows from the above that an intensive consultative process is required to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Convention, involving technical and financial support from the Global Mechanism. The Global Mechanism is collaborating with members of its Facilitation Committee, as well as with regional organizations and other partners, in implementing its mandate.

82. As of January 2000, the Global Mechanism was engaged in 9 countries and subregions. As of mid March 2001, the number of requests for support from the Global Mechanism had risen to 32. Each one of these new requests requires the establishment of working relations with several ministries and organizations of the country or subregion concerned as well as with a multitude of donor organizations. The expansion in the workload is therefore not linear but, rather, exponential. The experience gained through practical work has also made it very clear that in order to build and retain a momentum in the resource mobilization process, it is crucial that the dialogue with all the partners involved is constantly nurtured. This is a labour-intensive process that requires good understanding of the specific situation in each individual case as well as of the strategy and approach now adopted by the Global Mechanism for the implementation of its mandate. It is thus necessary to be able to provide consistent and sustained support of GM core staff throughout the process even though some specific tasks can be and are undertaken by consultants.

83. The experience of the GM has demonstrated the need for developing and sustaining a dialogue with developed country Parties to the Convention with the aim of keeping the bilateral and multilateral development cooperation constituency well informed of progress made by the GM in the resource mobilization process at country and subregional levels. In addition to providing information on, and generating support from, the donor agencies in these specific cases, it is also necessary to develop and sustain a dialogue with developed country Parties on the policy and approach adopted by the GM for the implementation of its mandate. This aspect of the GM's work is expanding as the GM increases the number of development cooperation agencies with which it is interacting.

84. One of the core tasks of the GM is to build and maintain an interactive information system providing information on potential sources of funds for the Convention and on the financial needs for its implementation. The first phase of the development of the GM Information System, called Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD), is now completed and has included the designing of the system and the testing of it on a pilot basis. Full-scale implementation is now in progress. The implementation includes populating the database with data from a multitude of sources and making it available in a consistent way. In order to render the database as useful as possible, it will also include analytical studies providing information on development cooperation trends region by region, information on which are the main development cooperation partners in the various regions, what policies they are pursuing and how they are related to the objectives of the Convention. Moving into the full-scale implementation phase requires a second level of funding as compared to work undertaken in the design phase.

85. During its initial couple of years of operation, the GM has focused on resource mobilization from bilateral and multilateral development cooperation partners. This has included resource mobilization from the Global Environment Facility and through accessing debt swap funds for the benefit of the Convention. As the policy and approach of the GM are now well defined and coupled with hands-on experience, the GM is now reaching out to new potential financial partners. This includes private foundations and the private sector in broader terms.

86. All the above activities will have to be coupled with the development and implementation of a comprehensive outreach and communications strategy and programme. Also, in this respect the GM is transferring from an initial piloting phase into fully-fledged implementation. The strategy and its implementation will include the development and regular updating of a number of different communications tools. It will also, and very importantly, include a much more active and frequent interaction with all the different constituencies of the GM. In addition to the prime actors at country level, in both developing and developed country Parties to the Convention as described above, the GM will reach out to, and become an active partner in, processes pursued by the international community. In this respect follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) are of particular significance given the origin of the Convention. The GM also needs significantly to enhance its interaction with organizations such as the G-77, the EU, JUSCANS and OECD-DAC in their capacity as important political constituencies of the Convention and the GM.

87. The budget allocated for the Global Mechanism for 2000 and 2001 is US$ 1,300,000 and US$ 1,350,000 respectively. This allocation has permitted the permanent employment of five professional and five support staff. However, in order to be able to respond to the expansion of the responsibilities and the increased workload as outlined above, part of the voluntary contribution available to the Global Mechanism in 2001 has been used to recruit long-term professional staff. Six such positions are financed for part of the year at an estimated cost of up to US$ 400,000. All these positions are included as permanent positions in the proposed budget for 2002 and 2003.

88. It is thus proposed that the staffing level be increased to include four additional Programme Manager positions, three Associate Programme Manager positions, one Associate Information Manager and one Operations Officer. The first priority is to increase Programme Management Capacity/resource mobilization capacity for Africa. Two of these posts are therefore allocated to Africa. Until now, sub-Saharan Africa has been under the direct management responsibility of the Deputy Managing Director. With the increased workload this is no longer a viable option, and this is reflected in the fact that in 2001 (and part of 2000), voluntary funds have been used to compensate for this shortcoming in staff capacity. The next priority is to fill the other two Programme Manager positions. These positions will further increase the capacity of the Global Mechanism to respond to requests from affected country Parties and to interact with a variety of constituent groups in the donor community. The posts of Associate Programme Manager will enhance the capacity of each regional unit and ensure that there will be a presence of professional staff in the office of the Global Mechanism at all times. This reflects the third priority in the requested budget. The inclusion of an Operations Officer and General Service staff positions are in relation to a proposed increase in the professional staff contingent. The budget also includes operating expenses and limited amounts for consultancies and professional services. These funds will be allocated primarily to maintain the GM's information system and to activities related to the outreach activities of the Global Mechanism.

89. The budget requested by the Global Mechanism for the years 2002 and 2003 is US$ 2,871,000 and US$ 3,119,000 respectively. Table 19 shows how these funds are allocated between budget categories. In percentage terms, approximately 85% of the proposed budget is directly related to staff, direct costs and staff travel. The remaining 15% is divided between different forms of operating expenses such as equipment hiring and supplies, and consultants and experts. The amounts included for contingency is primarily intended to cover exchange rate fluctuations and inflation costs. The budget that the Global Mechanism presents to the COP is therefore almost exclusively related to core expenses. The catalytic resources that the Global Mechanism requires to fulfil its mandate is covered through income received as voluntary contributions.

90. The budget requested by the Global Mechanism should be considered in relation to the budgets proposed by IFAD and UNDP in their offers to host the Global Mechanism presented to the first Conference of the Parties. IFAD had estimated the first year's start-up budget at US$ 3.3 million and the annual operating budget thereafter at US$ 2.74 million at 1997 prices. The offer presented by UNDP estimated the first year budget at US$ 2.8 million, also at 1997 prices. The budget allocation now requested is therefore within the financial resources estimated by these two organizations to be required to operate the Global Mechanism.

H. Programme support costs

Overhead

91. In accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, UNCCD accounts are subject to a 13 per cent programme support charge on all actual expenditures incurred. This amount is payable to the United Nations for the administrative services provided to the UNCCD. A portion of this charge is returned to the UNCCD to cover some of its own operating expenses incurred by the administration and finance programme.

92. On the basis of an expenditure level for the core budget of US$ 8,979,400 in 2002 and US$ 9,599,300 in 2003, the programme support charge can be estimated at US$ 1,167,300 and US$ 1,247,900 respectively.

Working capital reserve

93. COP 3 determined that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund should be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of the approved core budget, including overhead charges (decision 3/COP.3). It is anticipated that the working capital reserve as at the end of 2001 will be US$ 589,000; an additional amount of US$ 156,300 and US$ 51,400 will be required in 2002 and 2003, respectively, to constitute the required working capital reserves.

I. Host country's contribution to the core budget

94. In accordance with the terms of the offer of the Government of Germany to host the secretariat, the German Government will contribute DM 1,000,000 each year to the secretariat beyond its commitment as a Party. At the rate of exchange utilized by the United Nations for budgeting purposes (DM 2.2 to the US dollar), this would result in an offset of some US$ 454,500 for each year of the biennium.

VI. CONTINGENCY

Table 20. Estimates for contingency for conference services (in the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions of the Conference of the Parties in its regular budget)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Item of expenditure	2003
United Nations meeting services	2,281.0
Overhead	296.5
Total	**2,577.5**

95. In the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions of the UNCCD COP in its regular budget calendar of meetings, the Parties would have to assume the additional costs relating to conference services.

96. It is assumed that COP 6 and the CST will meet for a total of two consecutive weeks in 2003. The allocation of meetings during this period between the COP and the CST will need to be decided at a later stage in the light of the programme of work of each organ. Provision will be required for two weeks of meeting services, allowing for two simultaneous meetings at any time during those two weeks (that is, twenty meetings per week, or forty meetings over the two-week period). Furthermore, provision will need to be made for the translation, processing and distribution of an estimated 2000 pages of pre-session, 150 pages of in-session and 100 pages of post-session documentation. The full cost of related requirements comprising translation, interpretation, meeting and documents services can be estimated at US$ 2,577,500.

97. In the event that the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties will be held in Bonn, an additional amount of US$ 919,800 will be required to cover costs relating to logistical arrangements which will include rent of conference venue, installation of communication systems and contracting of local conference staff.

Table 21. Operating costs of holding the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn
(Thousands of US dollars)

Item of expenditure	Actual exp. for COP 4	Estimated exp. for COP 6
	2000	2003
Incremental costs	671.7	740.0
Contingencies	67.2	74.0
Subtotal	**738.9**	**814.0**
Overhead charge	96.1	105.0
Total	**835.0**	**919.0**

Table 22. Special Fund estimated resource requirements

(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000-2001 [1]	2003 [2]
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings	2,800.0	1,100.0
Overhead	364.0	143.0
Total estimated resources requirements	**3,164.0**	**1,243.0**

98. Table 22 shows the estimated resources needed for the Special Fund in the biennium. The details of the estimates are given in document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.2, Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2002-2003: Funding Estimates for the Activities under the Supplementary Fund.

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[1] This excludes the expenses incurred for the inter-sessional meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

[2] This estimate is for COP 6 only; should any other meeting be planned for 2002 and/or 2003, this estimate has to be revised accordingly.